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In re the application of  
Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/706,945

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filing Date: November 14, 2003

Examiner: A. Dunwoody

Title: TUBE JOINT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware which may be relevant to the above-identified application.

This information is in the form of references that were cited in a Search Report issued in a corresponding French Patent Application, mailed on November 29, 2004, as a foreign counterpart to the present application.

A copy of the communication from the French Patent Office, including the Search Report, is enclosed, along with copies of the references cited therein, as follows:

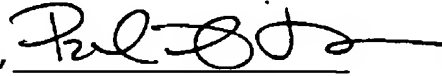
- (1) German Patent Publication No. 11 84 160 B, published on December 23, 1964
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-182751 A, published on July 6, 1999
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 6,467,816 published on October 22, 2002

- (4) British Patent Application Publication No. 1 217 739 A, published on December 31, 1970
- (5) European Patent Application Publication No. 0 945 664 A, published on September 29, 1999, which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,334,632
- (6) British Patent Application Publication No. 443 040 A, published on February 20, 1936
- (7) German Patent Application Publication No. 100 35 791 A, published on March 1, 2001, which corresponds to U.S. Patent Nos. 6,170,887 and 6,554,323

The above reference (2) has already been submitted in an earlier Information Disclosure Statement in the present application. Thus, this citation is not included on the attached Information Disclosure Citation form.

The Examiner is requested to indicate his consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form (PTO-1449) attached herewith.

37 CFR 1.97(e) Statement. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Signed, 

Paul A. Guss

Date: February 23, 2005

This information is being submitted after receiving a final Office Action, but prior to payment of the issue fee. Hence, in accordance with the 37 CFR § 1.97(e) Statement above, consideration of this information is proper with payment of the IDS fee, which may be charged to the undersigned's Deposit

Account No. 07-2519. Further, should it be deemed that any other fees are due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, authorization is given to charge such fees to the same Attorney's Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SR-24a (09-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 051-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/706,945
Filing Date	November 14, 2003
First Named Inventor	Y. Fukano et al.
Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	A. Dunwoody
Attorney Docket Number	CS-31-031114

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

[illegible]

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code <sup>2</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>6</sup> (if known)			
		DE 11 84 160 B	12-23-1964		
		GB 1 217 739 A	12-31-1970		
		EP 0 945 684 A	09-29-1999		
		GB 443 040 A	02-20-1936		
		DE 100 35 791 A	03-01-2001		

**Examiner  
Signature**

Date	
Considered	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.